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**Sent:** 11 March 2016 14:47  
**To:** haveyoursay@ttn-vds.org  
**Subject:** Public Consultation Feedback

Alan Martin  
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Trefonen

I have lived in the village for most of my adult life and my children have both attended the local School. I do as many will know have a vested interest in future development within the village as a landowner. I hope comments below are taken in the spirit intended.

*What is a Village Design Statement? The focus of a VDS is to describe the character of the local area and include guidance to influence change and improve the physical qualities of your area.*

- *A VDS can give a clear statement of what is special, unique and distinctive about the character of your village.*
- *A VDS adds local detail to development plan policy and, once approved by your local authority, it can be used as material consideration in the determination of planning applications.*
- *A VDS is a tool that can influence the people who live and work in the village, increase local pride and encourage care when making changes to the appearance of property.*
- *A VDS can help improve physical change and is a positive opportunity to suggest environmental improvements to enhance your area.*
- *A VDS can observe how the qualities of the village have evolved and help to explain current conditions.*
- *A VDS can provide an understanding of how the land uses, employment and social make up have influenced the village and its physical qualities.*

*It is **not** a general community plan, such as a parish plan, **neither** is it a statutory planning document, a tool to **generate or prevent** development, or an appraisal of social or economic issues. It cannot take away people's rights to make alterations to their property, nor can it make direct orders for action. There should be wide involvement in its production so that the finished VDS represents the views of the village or community as a whole.*

I have taken this from a local government document that, I think, sets out what a village design statement should and should not be.

In reading through the document I can see the amount of time and effort that went into its production and the update of the latest version. I have also reviewed a number of other village documents and the TT&N statement is much more comprehensive than most.

The VDS guidance document continually reminds the reader that the VDS is not a planning document, a reminder the steering group has recently (and belatedly) added to their web site.

What I feel from reading the document, particularly when you get to part 4, Policies (which I have not seen in any other VDS), is that the process has run away with itself and started to reflect the views of the steering group rather than sticking to the VDS guidance brief. The policy section particularly becomes extremely prescriptive in its views on particular planning issues. The design statement must take account of National and Local planning policies, it

does not need to add to these. There are a large number of inconsistencies that have been pointed out by others and I will not repeat them except to say that a public document such as this should only contain factual statements and not seek to influence the reader with personal opinion.

For anyone who might be interested what appears to be some excellent examples of VDS's that follow the guidance brief can be found here

[http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your\\_council/policies\\_and\\_performance/council\\_plans\\_and\\_strategies/planning\\_policy/current\\_local\\_plans/village\\_design\\_statements.aspx](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/your_council/policies_and_performance/council_plans_and_strategies/planning_policy/current_local_plans/village_design_statements.aspx)

Our village is important to us all and I can only hope that the final document that seeks to be accepted by the Parish council will consider the young people of the area, as currently there is little account taken of their views. Since the most recent developments many new families have moved into the area, some have actively campaigned against any further developments, I would politely like to remind those people that the houses they now live in would not be there if the very same arguments they now stand behind were listened to before planning was granted to their new homes.

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